

## **An AIDS-Free Haiti within Reach**

We have come a long way since the AIDS epidemic of the 90's. The Government of Haiti, the United States, international partners, and impassioned and courageous Haitians have helped to move AIDS past the rumors, the uncertainty, the stigma, the fear, the emaciated hospital patients, and voodoo exorcisms. At the height of the epidemic in Haiti, over almost four percent of adult Haitians had HIV/AIDS and through heroic efforts by many different parties, we have cut that number in half. In Haiti, almost 90 percent of pregnant women living with HIV receive services to ensure that they will not transmit the infection to their babies, more than a million people receive HIV testing every year, and over 65 percent of people eligible for HIV treatment are receiving it. Results like these make Haiti one of the greatest success stories in the global fight against HIV/AIDS, and the United States government is proud of the role we have played in combatting this deadly pandemic.

Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the United States has made the largest commitment ever by a single nation to combat a single disease. To date, the generous support of the American people through PEPFAR has committed more than one billion U.S. dollars to support the HIV/AIDS response in Haiti.

On World AIDS 2014, nearly 35 years into the global AIDS epidemic, it is important to reflect on how far we have come here in Haiti. Not so long ago, hospital beds were filled with dying patients, while others lay wasting away on the floor. Working in partnership, we have come a long way since then, but, together, we have more work to do to finish the job. This is why the U.S. government's official theme for World AIDS 2014 is **Focus, Partner, Achieve: An AIDS-free Generation**. Today we consider how to take that global approach and adapt to Haiti's unique circumstances and opportunities.

First, **Focus**. We must deliver the right thing, in the right place, and at the right time. This means focusing on the highest impact interventions,

bringing them to scale in key geographic areas and among the most vulnerable populations, and maintaining a sense of urgency to outrun the epidemic.

Second, **Partner**. No one entity alone can create an AIDS-free generation. It will take all of us working together to get there, not just the U.S., or Haiti, or NGOs. This means strengthening our partnerships with Haiti, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the United Nations family, the private sector, the faith community, and civil society. Everyone has their part to play, and every part must play together. As the Haitian flag tells us every day, “L’Union Fait la Force.”

Finally, **Achieve**. At the end of the day, it is about results – lives saved and new infections averted. Our collective success will be measured in the number of strong and healthy Haitians building a better tomorrow for their strong and healthy children. That means stronger collaboration and coordination than ever before to ensure that our respective investments are used efficiently and effectively, and with maximal impact.

The last 30 years have been marked by numerous victories against HIV/AIDS, and we have reached a critical moment in time where we are close to controlling the epidemic. We are closer than we have ever been before, but we are not there yet, and we need to continue to push. The strong partnership between PEPFAR and Haiti is part of what will get us there. By pushing ahead together, an AIDS-free generation of Haitians is within our reach.

**Pamela A. White**  
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